



Key References:

Philippians 4:11–13 (ESV) – Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

1 Timothy 6:6–9 (ESV) – But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

Isaiah 41:10 (ESV) – fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Luke 12:15 (ESV) – And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Luke 12:32–34 (ESV) – Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

You say, “If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.” You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled. — Charles Spurgeon

1 – CONTENT ?

What makes someone truly content from a non-Christian perspective?

Andy said: “It’s popular to ask each other; ‘is your glass half-empty or half-full’. But the real issue is that our cups are still only half-full because the glass keeps getting bigger and bigger.” **What issue of the human heart was Andy trying to describe? Why are we as a people still not content when we have so much more than people did just 100 years ago?**

Read Philippians 4:11-13 and then read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. **Are you surprised that the same person wrote these two passages?**

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-9. **Why is the “desire to be rich” so problematic? How does Jesus echo this in Luke 12:15 and Luke 12:34?**

2 – NOT THAT I AM IN NEED

Does the call for Christians to be content mean that we are to be ignorant of our needs? What was the balance in Paul’s life?

How can big needs in our life sometimes become our identity? On Sunday Andy challenged us by saying; “*If your biggest need in life was never met or fixed could you be satisfied?*” **What are your thoughts?**

Paul said; “*I have learned*”. **How is being content something that is experientially learned?**

Paul didn’t minimize the difficulty he experienced in life. **How is it possible to be spiritually content while physically in need? How does looking at the global church reflect this?**

3 – THE SECRET

Read Philippians 4:13 again. **When read within its’ context what does this verse mean? How would you paraphrase it? Why does Paul call it “the secret” of facing plenty and hunger?**

Do you have a testimony of Jesus satisfying you even when you were in tremendous need? How does God strengthen us, with real strength, in times of great need?

Read Luke 12:32. **Why does Jesus emphasize this in this section of scripture? What does it mean? How is God giving you the kingdom?**